

17 JAN 1976

USIB Committee on Imagery Requirements and Exploitation (COMIREX)

1. COMIREX, formed in June 1967, provides staff support to, and acts for, the USIB in development and implementation of national-level guidance for overhead imagery collection and exploitation. Membership consists of CIA, DIA, State, NSA, and the three Services. NRO and NPIC serve as Consultants. The Chairman is appointed by the DCI. The Committee, itself, meets every other week.

2. COMIREX has three Subcommittees responsible for collection, exploitation, and R&D for exploitation equipment. There are Working Groups concerned with mapping, sanitization and KH-11 planning. The Subcommittees and Working Groups have full-time chairmen and some supporting staff. They are responsible for day-to-day coordination and guidance in their fields. Altogether [redacted] [redacted] people, from CIA and DIA jointly, are assigned to COMIREX on a full-time basis.

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3. Duties that COMIREX performs include:

a. Coordinates and transmits to the NRO community collection requirements

b. Coordinates guidance on national level exploitation

c. Reports on status of collection and exploitation and assesses performance

d. Prepares the periodic broad USIB guidance to NRO

e. Performs miscellaneous coordinating functions such as film processing and distribution.

4. Problem-oriented studies are generated as necessary. These have included studies of satellite imagery system flexibility, requirements for crisis reconnaissance, evaluation of GAMBIT improvements, studies of resolution, vulnerability, SALT, etc.

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5. The general concept of operations of COMIREX is to use the Chairman's staff or the Subcommittees and Working Groups to spearhead studies or activities, drawing upon the assets of the community for specialized support as needed. Day-to-day actions are transmitted directly to operational elements such as the NRO or NPIC. Policy matters are coordinated in COMIREX and forwarded to the USIB for review and appropriate actions.

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